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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Written statement submitted by the World Confederation of Labour, a non-governmental organization in consultative status (category 1), by the American Association of Jurists, International Association of Educators for World Peace, International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, Pax Christi International and the Latin American Federation of Associations of Relatives of Disappeared Detainees (FEDEFAM), non-governmental organizations in consultative status (category II), and by the Centre Europe-Tiers Monde, Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples and the World Organization against Torture, non-governmental organizations on the Roster

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV)

[22 February 1993]

IRAN

1. The manifold aspects of violations of human rights in Iran are known to the international community. The United Nations General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights have condemned these serious and massive violations for several years in succession.

2. However, the human rights organizations have been following with increasing attention the acts of violence directed against Iranian citizens living abroad who are members of various opposition groups (report of Mr. Galindo Pohl submitted to the General Assembly of the United Nations, para. 159).

3. This is becoming all the more alarming when one bears in mind that in the course of 1992, 12 terrorist actions were carried out against Iranian opponents outside Iran, twice as many as in 1991. The most recent case in this sinister sequence of events was the discovery of the body of Mr. Ali-Akbar Ghorbani, an active member of the People's Mujahedin in Turkey; a political refugee in France, he was taking care of numerous Iranians who had fled repression and sought refuge in the neighbouring country of Turkey. On 4 June 1992, he was abducted in Istanbul. On 11 June 1992, the European Parliament, in a resolution, expressed concern about the fate of Mr. Ghorbani and requested the Turkish Government to prevent his transfer to Iran and to arrest the perpetrators of the abduction.

4. The murder of a prominent Turkish journalist, known for his many articles attacking religious fundamentalism, led to the arrest of a terrorist group whose members had, according to Mr. Sezgin, the Turkish Minister of the Interior, travelled repeatedly to Iran and undergone training in a military camp to the south of Tehran. Mr. Sezgin confirmed that that group had also been involved in the murder of Mr. Ghorbani (AFP, 4 February 1993).

5. Mr. Ghorbani's mutilated body was found on waste ground near Istanbul with the nails torn out, the genitals cut off and an electric flex around the neck. Mr. Ali Fallahian, the Iranian Minister of Information, had stated on 30 August last in a televised interview: "We have managed to hit these (opposition) groups outside Iran".

6. The human rights organizations submitting this written statement condemn this horrific crime and call on the member countries of the Commission to draw particular attention to the repeated assassination abroad of opponents of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to react firmly in the context of the examination of human rights violations in Iran.

7. The Commission will undoubtedly wish to invite the Iranian Government unequivocally to dissociate itself from the fatwa reiterated by the highest religious authority in the country, which makes it a duty for every Muslim to assassinate Salman Rushdie, a British citizen. Such an invitation to crime must be clearly condemned by the member countries of the United Nations as a violation of all its standards.